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Hamilton's Slow Food club took a tour to Jones Family Farm this past Saturday. **page 5**

The Spectator

Thursday, October 27, 2022

Volume LXIV
Number VII

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Common Ground: Max Boot on Ukraine War

by Catherine Vogt '24
STAFF WRITER

This past Tuesday, Common Ground hosted its first speaker of the semester, Max Boot. Boot is a *Washington Post* columnist, a best-selling author, the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Senior Fellow in National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations as well as a military historian. Alongside the Publius Virgilius Rogers Professor of American History Maurice Isserman and Visiting Professor of History Ty Seidule, Boot discussed the current war in Ukraine and American foreign policy.

The Common Ground program at Hamilton was instituted in 2017 to establish respectful conversations about hotly debated political and social topics. As part of the program, the College brings well-respected leaders and scholars of thought to present their ideas and converse with fellow scholars that may not hold the same opinion. The topics of the presentations deal with complex national and global policy issues, such as economic inequality, impeachment and affirmative action. All Common Ground events are free of charge and open to the public.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Max boot, *Washington Post* columnist, discussed the War in Ukraine and American Foreign Policy with Professors Isserman and Seidule.

Prior to speaking in the Bradford Auditorium, Boot lectured during Professor Isserman's course "Recent American History: the United States, 1941 to the Present." During the class discussion, Boot spoke about important historical events in American history including the Vietnam War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the 9/11 attacks and how U.S. foreign policy shifted as a result of these events.

Additionally, Boot noted that Ukrainian troops should be fighting for Ukraine while American troops should not take part in the fighting, a hard learned lesson on foreign intervention with the Vietnam and Iraq wars. He also gave his opinion on American democracy today, highlighting how powerful nationalism is in uniting a population and the ability of a legitimate government in incentivizing nationalism.

The military scholar related these points to the Jan. 6 attack on the US Capitol, stating that "we're at a crisis of legitimacy in the United States. You know Democrats believe Republicans are an existential threat to this country and Republicans think the same thing."

On Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 7:00 p.m., in a packed Bradford Auditorium, the hour-long discussion with Boot, Isserman and Seidule was underway. To begin, Boot gave his take on the Ukrainian War. The Common Ground speaker proclaimed that the war in Ukraine will determine the fate of the world going forward, ending the post-Cold War era and beginning the post-Ukrainian War era. If Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, achieves his goals of either annexing a majority of Ukraine or completely eliminating Ukraine from the world map, Boot believes Russia's success would send a green light for China to invade Taiwan and for North Korea to invade South Korea. As a result, the territorial integrity norm would be meaningless, making the world a more dangerous place.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Common Ground brings leaders to Hamilton to discuss complex social issues.

Boot then dove into the conversation about how, from a military perspective, the current state of the war is shocking. At the start of the invasion, most world leaders, as well as Putin, thought that Russia would easily complete the invasion in fifteen days. However, Russia has been inept. The Russian military is running low on manpower and weapons, now getting weapons from Iran. Additionally, more Russian men have left the country than those who have joined the military. In contrast, the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and Ukrainian soldiers have shown an unexpected level of confidence and sophistication. Ukraine has been taking in brand new weapon systems and turning civilians into skilled soldiers overnight all while being involved in this high intensity war. In fact, Ukraine has the potential to make more gains before the winter sets in.

In looking towards the future of the war, Boot remarked that the Ukrainians are on the offensive and Russia is on the trajectory to lose this war. As such, countries should support Ukraine now to further shift the bal-

Story continued on page 4

October 27, 2022

Root Hall to become humanities building

by Stella Essenmacher '25
STAFF WRITER

Root Hall (not to to be confused with the similarly-named Root Residence Hall on Dark Side) has a striking presence on campus with its central location in between Christian A. Johnson Hall (CJ) and Carnegie Residence Hall. Built in 1897, Root Hall was designed by the architects Carrère and Hastings who also designed the New York Public Library. For the current renovation, Barry Rivet, director of project management on the Hamilton Facilities Management Team, represents Hamilton with managing consultants and contractors. Although renovations have been done before, he notes "this is the first major renovation [Root Hall] has gone through. This is gutting the building basically, taking it right down to the studs and even more. And we'll totally reconfigure the building and bring it up to more modern standards."

When finished, Root Hall will house the Africana Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, Religious Studies and Classics Departments. This is the second step in a strategy to consolidate departments within Humanities, following the recent renovation of the List Center. Rivet points out that right now Humanities are "kind of scattered around and this is bringing them to one location." The renovated building will have 20 offices, ample group-work areas and several classrooms.

The renovation honors the building's history with features such as replacing the current asphalt roof with a slate roof from the building's original design. The inside, however, will be modernized. Rivet recalls an architect on the project telling him "in the old days, academic buildings were thought of as institutions of knowledge and almost as these safes that when you go in there, you function within the building. There was really no exposure to the outside. Nowadays, it's much different. We want to create open areas and bring some of the elements of the outdoors into the space."

The layout of the building will also be heavily altered. In the past, offices in Root Hall came in an unusual mix of shapes and sizes. Additionally, many classrooms were very small or had fireplaces. These issues will all be addressed. The renovation was also designed with current code standards in mind, such as introducing multiple stairways to exit the building and accessible entrances. Rivet adds that sustainability was a big emphasis in the design because of Hamilton's promise to be carbon neutral by 2030. Geothermal wells will replace gas-fired boilers "so it's all electric and so [this building will] have no carbon footprint."

Construction began in March 2022 with the removal of asbestos in the walls and subsequent demolition. Currently, the team is adjusting structural elements like creating an elevator shaft and moving the stairways. Rivet describes, "if you were to go in there, you could see from one end of the building to the other and probably up and down in a lot of cases because it's just wide open. All the walls are gone, with the exception of load-bearing walls of course." Next steps include putting in walls, mechanical and plumbing elements and finally adding architectural finishes.

Lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic include supply chain disruptions, creating a weekly issue. This makes the shipment of materials take months longer than expected and greatly increases the cost. For a project with a set timeline and intentionally sequenced steps, this provides many challenges. Lucikly, the team is currently on track to meet their goal of finishing late next summer, in order to give faculty a chance to move into the space before the Fall 2023 Semester.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Construction at Root Hall continues seven months after its beginning in Spring 2022.

PHOTO BY DEANNA DURBEN '25

Light side's Root Hall formerly housed the Literature and Philosophy Departments.

October 27, 2022

Psychology talk: an evolutionary approach to friendship with Professor Jaimie Krems

by Deanna Durben ’25
NEWS EDITOR

Is venting about a friend truly harmless, or is it actually a strategic move within the hierarchy of friendship? This question and more were explored in a talk by Jaimie Krems, a Psychology professor at Oklahoma State University, on Monday, Oct. 17: “An Evolutionary Social Science of Friendship.”

Friendships have long been largely ignored in psychology research, Krems explained, with mating studied five times as much. Even when friendship is studied, researchers have usually focused on a two-person dyad, ignoring that our interactions and our friends’ interactions with multiple other people must come into play.

Friendship is defined as “medium to long term communal bonds between conspecifics who provide preferential support,” Krems said. This means that our friends provide support to us, over supporting a stranger. She elaborated, “Our friends have a stake in our continued welfare, so they continue to help us” even when we’re in a weak position, because we will later return the favor.

Therefore, to reap benefits, Krems points out that “you shouldn’t just compete for socially desirable friends, you need friends who prioritize you.” We have cognitive mechanisms designed to assemble support, as well as making decisions to side with the friend most likely to support you later. For example, when two people in a friend group are fighting, we take the side of whoever generally values us, and will likely support us in the future. This ranking is not necessarily the same as your own ranking of friends, or even who you think is right in the dispute.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAIMIE KREMS

Jaimie Krems, a Psychology professor at Okhlahoma State University, gave the talk.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

The psychology talk took place in Taylor Science Center, where students gathered in room 3024.

“You’re not making these decisions coldly, consciously,” Krems was quick to clarify “it’s more of ‘I like you, I support you.’” She stressed that these are cognitive mechanisms that have likely developed over time because they’re evolutionarily beneficial.

When people are asked about friend preferences, they reliably pick things like kind and trustworthy and disfavor vicious or indifferent traits. However, Krems’ important finding is that these friend preferences actually correlate to how we want these people to treat us, not how they behave towards everyone.

Our real preferences have “target-specificity”: we are how friends behave towards us and how they treat us relative to others. While we rate the kind vs. vicious behavior similarly when self-directed and other-directed, the amplitude of our preferences are much lower: we don’t care as much. In fact, we rate “impartiality” as a good characteristic overall, but not when directed toward ourselves.

When rating how we want friends to behave toward an enemy, our preferences actually reverse. Someone who is vicious toward our enemies can be a good ally, while someone who is too trustworthy might keep a secret that is harmful to us.

Therefore, it makes sense that friendship jealously exists across cultures, eras and possibly even species, as Krems explains. It’s likely adaptive to ensure that our friends prioritize us when giving support or resources.

Social venting is expressing grievances about a mutual friend (the target) to someone (the receiver). We think it focuses on ourselves and our own frustrations, which obscures it as an act of aggression. In fact, venting buffers our own reputation.

Communicating negative information about the target harms their reputation and weakens the receiver-target bond. Simultaneously, it bolsters the venter’s relationship with the receiver, because of the sense of camaderie/trust universal to opening up to someone about your troubles.

Venting is the only way we can simultaneously improve our relationship with a friend while weakening their relationship with someone else. “Our friends support us better when they like us better than their other friends,” Krems said, which leads to competition within a friend group.

Directly trashtalking a target does allow you to weaken their status. However, you are then perceived as aggressive, so the tradeoff is not worth it. If you vent about non-social things, you get the same closeness boost, but you cannot change anything about the target.

Krems concludes that social venting is the most efficient way to boost yourself in the friendship rankings, so to speak, and can likely benefit you the next time that receiver friend decides to share some homemade cookies. Whether this is an ethical thing to do, and if we should reign in this behavior in favor of being a nice person, is another matter.

Continued from front page

ance of power in the war, which would lead to a longer lasting peace rather than a six-month ceasefire. In Putin's sixteen years in power, it is apparent that he is only successful at two things: looting Russia and staying in power. That being the case, the Russian president is unable to actually run a war. Unfortunately though, negotiations are unlikely because Putin is not ready to end the war, Boot says.

As part of the talk, Boot answered questions from the audience. One student asked Boot his thoughts on Ukraine joining The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In response, the Russian born scholar stated that he believes that Ukraine joining the European Union (EU) is more likely than joining NATO. If Ukraine were to join NATO, then NATO would be at war with Russia. Very few political leaders would favor Ukraine joining NATO as they do not want to confront the potential for nuclear war. Boot also expects Ukraine will have greater economic integration and a future with Europe

When talking about the United States domestically, Boot traced the origin of the modern-day Republican Party to the 1964 presidential nomination of Barry Goldwater. Since the 1960s, each generation has been more conservative than the last with a radical fringe of the Republican party always existing. The lecturer remarked that it is important to recognize that today, the mainstream Republican party is now what once was the fringe and is a radical, far-right and populous party. While President Ronald Reagan was once seen as the epitome of a conservative leader, in comparison to former President Donald Trump, Reagan can be viewed more so as a moderate since he was in favor of NATO, immigration and free trade.

The next Common Ground talk will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 4:00 p.m. in the Red Pit (Kirner-Johnson 127). This lecture will be led by New York University Professor Nikhil Pal Singh who will be discussing how the killing of George Floyd in June 2020 should be analyzed in the larger spheres of racism and empire as well as how life in the United States today is transformed at the center of policing and war.

Hamilton Horoscopes: Oct. 27

by Anoushka Aswin '25 and Nicole Greenberg '25
NEWS EDITORS

Aquarius: January 20-February 18
Pisces: February 19-March 20
Aries: March 21-April 19
Taurus: April 20-May 20
Gemini: May 21-June 20
Cancer: June 21-July 22
Leo: July 23-August 22
Virgo: August 23-September 22
Libra: September 23-October 22
Scorpio: October 23-November 21
Sagittarius: November 22-December 21
Capricorn: December 22-January 19

Aries
This weekend you'll be confronted with an amalgamation of your darkest fears. While you may want to run away screaming, take a moment to center yourself. Face it head on. You'll find that fight is better than flight this week.

Taurus
Your car just broke down. If not in reality, then metaphorically. Check your rearview mirror, especially your blind spots. Be willing to talk to a mechanic; you're not always the expert. And remember: objects are closer than they appear.

Gemini
You may feel yourself putting on a mask for others. This weekend, if you feel alone in a crowded room, try to take that mask off. Reveal the true you underneath. You can only let others in when you let your true self come out.

Cancer
You just jumped into a new romantic relationship. Stay vigilant, but keep an open mind about what might come next. Other people may tell you, "Be yourself." This week, don't.

Leo
Put some pep in your step this week. Write a note to yourself on your shared bathroom mirror letting everyone else know you're the boss. If someone erases it, write it again in permanent marker.

Virgo
You may have a near death experience. If you see your life flash before your eyes, and not much happened, take that as a sign. Make some changes—you need more memories. The next time this happens, it will be far more interesting.

Libra
You've been in a rut for a while, but you've gotten too cozy. Take off the blanket, slip on your Boston Birkenstocks, and take this week on headstrong. Try something new: perhaps a different coffee flavor, or spelunking.

Scorpio
Someone unexpected may challenge your authority this week. If a two year old with a proficiency in biting approaches your ankle area, steer clear. Wear thigh highs.

Sagittarius
Stay alert, as someone will try to force feed you spearmint gum

PHOTO BY GETTY IMAGES/GLAMOUR MAGAZINE

in an academic building. Here's a tip: chew, but don't swallow.

Capricorn
You take your beliefs very seriously, especially in regard to your preferred font. This week, someone will send you an email in neon Comic Sans. Stay calm. Take a breath. Block them or make a new friend. The world is your oyster.

Aquarius
Is it better to be a big fish in a small pond or a small fish in a big pond? Neither. Try to be a medium fish in a medium pond. But look out! There's a shark behind you!

Pisces
Some things are going to change. Other things might stay the same. Distinguish between them, but not too much. Don't dwell on the past, but don't get too far ahead of yourself. Challenges will resolve themselves, except for the ones that don't. Good luck.

October 27, 2022

Slow Food's Trip to Jones Family Farm

by Gregoire Winston '26
STAFF WRITER

Quaintely nestled in the outskirts of Utica's city center, Jones Family Farm provides locals and tourists alike a unique experience into the world of top quality, homegrown, farm-fresh food. This past Saturday, Hamilton's Slow Food club made the 20 mile trip east to Jones Farm, leaving campus for a few hours and coming back pleased by the trip.

Following the 45 minute Jitney ride, Slow Food members were greeted by owners Peter and Suzie Jones upon arrival, and wasted no time in starting the tour of their grounds. Prior to entering the central production space, feet and hair nets were required. Once inside, the group of 15 students stood face to face with an expansive set of cheese plates, most of which were some of the farm's best selling products. Authentic gouda—which accumulates crunchy salt crystals over its aging process—was accompanied by an apricot gelee.

PHOTO BY GREGOIRE WINSTON '26

Hamilton's slow food club observes the wide array of authentic platters of food.

Owner Suzie Jones clarified that compared to other cheeses sampled, chèvre is to be eaten immediately so as to savor its rich aromas. Rosemary infused crackers, saltines, freshly cut baguettes, green grapes and apple slices were further encouraged to be paired with the cheese, as the clashing sweet-savory flavors ideally complement each other, bringing out the best of both worlds. At the center of the plate, goat milk feta, marinated in a mixture of olive oil, kalamata olives, and cherry tomatoes elevated flavors to a whole new level. In the same vein as camembert, a triangle of brie could be enjoyed alongside a spicy blueberry basil jam. Its crust, amassing progressively pronounced flavors over time, left nothing to be desired, with the smoky, dominant crust perfectly balancing a milder, creamy center. Goat milk gelato paired with apple crumble, produced on site by Jones Family Farm, topped off the tasting process. While seemingly one-dimensional relative to the expansive selection, a spoonful of traditional goat cheese was part of the tasting plate. A true explosion of flavors; an unreal gustatory voyage.

"I really enjoyed the cheese and gelato tasting since those are both foods that I love. Both were absolutely delicious and I would definitely go back to eat more. I especially liked how they paired the cheeses with different jams and fruits to enhance the flavor. There's nothing like good cheese!" remarked Holly Mirales '26.

Once the tasting concluded, Slow Food members continued their tour outside where three dozen sheep and goats and as many roosters and chickens were held in by fencing. Behind the enclaves, 125 acres of green pastures flourished, allowing for both sheep and goats to roam undisturbed. The picturesque setting in the heart of upstate New York was further accentuated thanks to the line of trees delineating Jones Family Farm's property. Having been touched by the autumn foliage, a gorgeous medley of yellow, orange and red shaded tree leaves brought breathtaking color to the landscape, crowning the already scenic views.

"Jones [Family Farm] in particular is always a fun trip because they're personable, easy to work with, and have a lot of food and animals to enjoy," commented Henry Wilson '23, who led the Slow Food trip. In past years at Hamilton, Wilson participated in going to the farm through Slow Food. Despite a change in responsibility vis-a-vis the club, Wilson still cherishes "going back to places with whom I have had great experiences with."

Thanks to its high-quality dairy-derived products, Jones Family Farm holds a list of notable community partners it consistently does business with, including Utica Coffee Roasting Company, Nola's Restaurant, Bagel Grove and The Headwater Food Hub. Due to New York state regulations regarding commercial exchanges between small businesses, all trade stays within the state border. Despite the occasional collaboration with compa-

PHOTO BY HENRY WILSON '23

Students tour the central production space at Jones Family Farm.

nies centered in Brooklyn and New York City, the bulk of their sales go towards supporting the upstate New York food market.

In individual cases, the farm holds a self-service store filled with a plethora of condiments and aliments. Sweet fig goat cheese, black garlic, ground beef, cage-free eggs, pork sausage, whole chicken and apple crisp gelato can be purchased in store or ordered online via the official Jones Family Farm website, annotherjonesfamilyfarm.com. The cell phone contact is 315-866-4164.

"Having a healthy local food system is critical especially in an age of pandemics; it is how we are able to feed ourselves. Making sure farming and small businesses like this are prioritized is certainly key," stated Suzie Jones.

In a world where globalization is pushing agroalimentary companies towards a model prioritizing maximization of economic profit, consequently leading to unauthentic, artificial products, Jones Family Farm is working against this trend for the betterment of its local community.

Having worked hand in hand with other producers around Utica and upstate New York for over two decades, Jones Family Farm still stands true to its mission statement, and will undeniably continue doing so for years to come: "shortening the distance between farmer and consumer, with quality foods that feed community & spirit."

Dear Hamilton Community,

We hope you enjoyed our recent Bagg's Square event! We would like to give thanks for the co-hosts *WHCL* and *Signature Style,* as well as everyone for coming to the event. Check out everyone's outfits on page 10!

Speaking of fits, we hope to see everyone dressed up this Haloweekend, and wish everyone a safe and fun Halloween.

Catch our weekly issues of *The Spec* all around campus such as in popular spots like Kirner-Johnson (KJ), Christian Johnson (CJ), Sadove Student Center and Taylor Science Center (SCCT), as well as where you eat or lounge in Commons, McEwen, Diner and FoJo!

The Spectator

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The Spectator

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

The Bachelors

Jun Cho ’25

PHOTO COURTSEY OF JUN CHO '25

Hometown: Ashland, OH.
Home on campus: Kirkland.
Major: CS/Econ.
Turn on? Chill.
Turn off? People on scooters.
If you were a dorm, which would you be and why? Keehn. Mad underrated.
What advertising slogan best describes your life? Where’s the beef?
What TV genre best describes you? Propaganda films.
What’s the best pick-up line you’ve ever used/had used on you? “I broke my leg can you take me to the ER?” (her leg was not broken).
What are three things you cannot live without? Weighted blanket, mattress, pillow.
If you were any social space, what would you be? Ping-pong table.
Where do you go when you want to be alone? Stairmaster.
What’s your Patronus and why? Fish.
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? Men’s diving team.
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? Pop every campo tire.
What would you give a thumbs up? Classical music.
What would you give a thumbs down? Serious amounts of eye contact.
Who would you say is your campus crush? Dean Atassi '25 when bearded.
Who would you say is your faculty crush? Ann Owen, easily.
What would your perfect date be? Window shopping but with the boys.
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? DaBaby.
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? Sporting Harvard merchandise.
If you were a food, which would you be and why? Chili dogs. Mad underrated.
Lights on or lights off? On. Standing lamp preferably.
Favorite campus study spot? That room in CJ.
What is the meaning of life? Read books, listen to Carti.

Interested in being featured in next week's "Bachelors"section? Email featspec@hamilton.edu!

Catherine Vogt ’24

PHOTO COURTSEY OF CATHERINE VOGT '24

Hometown: Darien, CT.
Home on campus: Dunham 3rd floor.
Major: World Politics.
Turn on? Chivalry.
Turn off? Chains.
If you were a dorm, which would you be and why? Wally J because I am small, but cute.
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, who would you pick and why? Maggie Rogers and Stevie Wonder.
What advertising slogan best describes your life? Know Thyself.
What TV genre best describes you? Netflix docuseries on niche topics.
What’s the best pick-up line you’ve ever used/had used on you? “Hey!” (used by me).
What’s your type? Chace Crawford in “What to Expect When You're Expecting.”
What are three things you cannot live without? My dog, Diner grilled cheese, and 2.5 years of chemotherapy (don’t worry I’m in remission lol).
If you were any social space, what would you be? Bab Pav Spring 2021.
Where do you go when you want to be alone? The Glen.
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? Pub Bartenders.
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? Eating and drinking in the WHCL studio.
What would you give a thumbs up? Voting!!!
What would you give a thumbs down? The 12 North bathroom line.
Who would you say is your campus crush? Hamilton Women's Club Soccer Team.
Who would you say is your faculty crush? The Communications/Marketing Office.
What would your perfect date be? Mitsuba Ramen and a movie.
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? A dead succulent I accidently overwatered the first week of school.
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? Leaving beard shavings in the sink.
If you were a food, which would you be and why? Cotton candy ice cream with rainbow sprinkles because I am a child at heart.
Lights on or lights off? Purple LEDs.
Favorite campus study spot? Tables outside KJ 204.
What’s the last lie you told? I thought it was really interesting how the author. . .
What was your first thought this morning? I have to pee.
What is the meaning of life? Don’t take anything for granted.

October 27, 2022

How the far-right is fueling the plight of French ethnonationalism

by Gregoire Winston '26
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

In the wake of French President Emmanuel Macron's victory at the ballot box, securing a second term in office until April 2027, far-right rival Marine Le Pen stood proud of the election turnout for Le Front National, the party she leads. Despite a defeat, the margin was much slimmer than what people witnessed in 2017—a 17% gap separated the incumbent President from his competitor—and Le Pen hailed her political campaign as a "resounding victory" and the source of "a great sense of hope" for the future of her party. Since the days of her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, spearheading the party's aims through Islamophobia, nativism and extremist perspectives, Marine Le Pen has spent over a decade sculpting a carefully calculated image of her political motives. She has removed her father from the organization altogether and prioritized issues such as rising living costs and welfare for French citizens, which has undeniably softened the edges of a group once perceived as neo-Nazis. Today, its direct implications on a national and continental scale can be witnessed firsthand. France's political system has normalized far-right ideals, amassing hordes of voters toward FN values and guiding future generations down a path of ethnonationalistic plight.

As Le Pen's best election campaign to date came to a close, the ideals she presented mainland France remained centered in the limelight. Far-right pundit, television celebrity, writer and historian Éric Zemmour, the French equivalent of Donald Trump, wasted no time surfing on a wave of right-wing popularity to his advantage. Unafraid of discarding values of political correctness and stirring up controversy regardless of consequence, Zemmour's transition from media celebrity to political candidate at the dawn of the 2022 race added an extra dimension of choice for right-leaning voters. He possessed radical world views regarding Muslim immigration, an issue of constant recurance dating back to post-World War II decolonialism, and has propagated neo-Nazi conspiracy theories and pushed towards historical revisionism. This has unintentionally framed Le Pen as far more of a centrist candidate than in actuality, as reported by *The Atlantic*.

Moreover, Zemmour's undeniable talent at dividing both sides of the political spectrum has progressively built up a cascade of news sources flocking towards reporting his increasingly outlandish, provocative statements, thus giving him more air time. Research conducted by French media watchdog Acrimed concluded that in Sept. 2021, Zemmour's name was Googled upwards of 5,000 times, equating to 139 searches per day. Furthermore, they discovered that abetted by this outpouring of provocation, Zemmour received over 11 hours of airtime on French mainstream outlets such as BFMTV and CNEWS. Investing this much mediatic attention to a figure as spectacular as Zemmour allows much of his discourse to live in French minds rent-free; when not in complete support of his arguments, French voters can simply turn toward Le Pen, who is perceived as taking on a much more neutral stance, all to her advantage.

On Oct. 14, 2022, Parisian police discovered the body of 12-year-old Lola Daviet, mutilated and folded up inside a plastic suitcase in northeast Paris. Having most likely been victim of asphyxiation, rape, torture and sexual abuse, France grappled with the gruesome reality of an innocent girl brutally killed before their eyes. Who was the perpetrator of this heinous act? That would be twenty-four year-old Algerian Dabhia B., who had been residing in France despite her expired student visa and most likely suffered from psychiatric problems. Soon after her announcement as primary suspect in the murder, Le Pen lost no time expressing resentment. "Once again," she stated to the Parliament of France, "the suspect of this barbaric act should not have been in France. What are you waiting for to act so that this out-of-control illegal immigration is finally stopped?" Zemmour followed suit to Le Pen's declarations, starting a hashtag trend on Twitter: "#ManifPourLola", translating to "#DemonstrationforLola." A report by *The New York Times* concluded that in 2021, only 6% of the 62,000 people residing in France illegally actually left the country, an alarming fact throwing Macron's cabinet and the French government into significant turmoil. How weak does a country's government have to be in order for its immigration laws not to be enforced properly? Right-wing politicians are asking themselves these same questions.

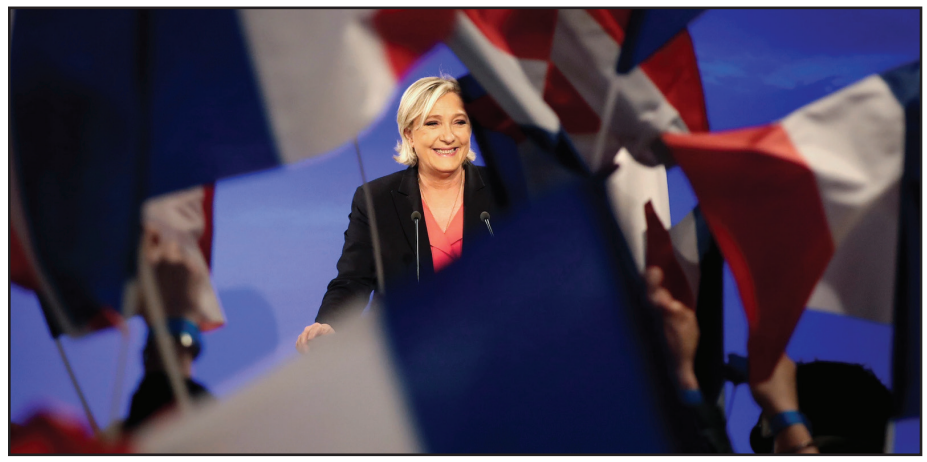


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marine Le Pen has paradoxically benefitted from right-wing opposition.

Days after Lola's death, far-right demonstrators took to the streets of Paris, notably holding a sign reading "L'État M'a Tuée," or "The State Killed Me." Backers of both Le Pen and Zemmour gathered en masse across the nation in a public display high in sadness and anger; the former given the tragic circumstances, and the latter towards an inexcusable government blunder. Combined, they form the cocktail recipe for a new movement of sociopolitical change inching closer toward shattering the very foundations of French society.

Ever since Lola's murder, the term 'francocide,' also coined by Zemmour, has circulated across social media platforms; *The Atlantic* has defined this term as denouncing "any attack or crime perpetrated by a non-French migrant against a French person." While not evidently apparent, the underlying assumption that French equates to whiteness, and immigrant equating to non-white is inheritly problematic. Not all French are white; similarly, not all immigrants are non-white. Falling victim to this mindset of tokenism or basing generalized perceptions on individual cases, rather than recurring instances, promotes ethnonationalist thinking detrimental to immigrants grouped into these generalizations against their will. Italy's recently elected, hyper-nationalist prime minister, Giorgia Meloni, stands as the embodiment of a similar imminent geopolitical shift toward right-wing radicalism. While it is former U.S. President Donald Trump who exemplifies for many the steady rise in hard-line right-leaning rhetoric across the world, it is Europe, dealing with Hungary's Viktor Orbán and France's Le Pen, who will more likely than not struggle to contain the ramifications from a tidal wave of political discord in the coming years.

October 27, 2022

Let's be real: BeReal is hardly real

by Sydney Piccoli '26
OPINON CONTRIBUTOR

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE PLAY

The French social media application BeReal has witnessed exponential growth as of late, but fails to differentiate itself.

In 2020, Alexis Barreyat and Kevin Perreau released the French social media platform BeReal, accumulating a consistent user base in recent months. The platform functions so that once a day, a notification is spontaneously sent to all the app's users living in a specific geographic location, urging them to take a photograph of themselves and their surroundings within a two-minute window. The platform's model is meant to propel social media as an authentic entity and de-emphasize Internet addiction, which is reflected by its name "BeReal." If one postulates that this social media platform is grounded in the same capitalism as its competitors, however, then how does BeReal differ from Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok? Does BeReal mark a new trajectory toward a path of genuineness? Or is it social media's latest trend craze? Simply put, is BeReal really real?

BeReal has certainly attempted to differentiate itself from platforms like Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook, at least superficially. BeReal has no followers, 'like counts,' photo filters or opportunity for editing, a move similar to the trajectory Instagram has been following since the platform provided the option to hide one's own 'like counts.' BeReal has been likened to "casual Instagram"—a term coined to describe carefree posting, rather than curating moments to garner social capital, be it real or imaginary. Sure, BeReal is a great concept in theory; if social media toxically grips us, why not rebel by promoting a platform that encourages sharing the more simple parts of our day—cleaning, sleeping and eating? If it is so excellent in theory, then, why would such a platform not be good in practice?

For one, all social media hinges on a capitalistic platform. I can only describe TikTok's algorithm as "scarily niche;" it manufactures a scenario that motivates us to endlessly scroll, consuming content that rarely makes us feel good about ourselves. Facebook's ads cater to our interests, often prompting us to spend money that we may not have. Instagram has added a slew of features, like its Instagram reels section, to try and compete with TikTok. TikTok has fought back by adding a TikTok Now, which is essentially a BeReal clone. Why do these platforms keep incorporating components of their competitors? It is simply because they all want us hooked. More users lead to more time spent on the app and more money for the platform. BeReal is no different.

More importantly, humans are not designed to use BeReal in the way the app is marketed. The overwhelming majority of BeReal users only snap a BeReal when something interesting is happening in their day. Here's a fun experiment: take out your phone and check how many people are thirteen, fifteen, or twenty hours late. I can hardly believe one has not checked their phone in that many hours, but conveniently takes a BeReal when they are surrounded by people. By waiting for BeReal at only the exciting moments or abstaining from being real when nothing exciting is happening, one's BeReal becomes compatible with an Instagram feed. As humans, we all want to portray the most intriguing, nuanced version of ourselves. BeReal is just another echo chamber for this reality, except with some creative marketing and extreme glitching.

Although it may be a stretch, I would even assert that by trying to be different, BeReal is even worse. At least other social media platforms own up to their damage; it often seems as if BeReal has just monopolized the part of me that feeds into social media platforms with no remorse. If BeReal's intention is for us to be real, they would not create another social media platform in the first place. The best and only way to truly 'be real' is to stay off social media and put the phone down.

PHOTO COURTESY GOOGLE PLAY

TikTok Now, a "clone" of BeReal according to the author, attempts to bring the casual aspect of BeReal to TikTok.

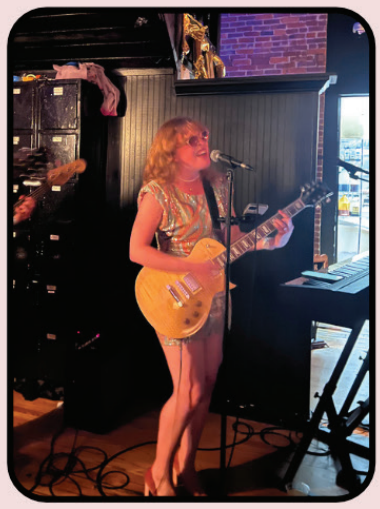
10.22.22

BY LILY RIZZOLI '24
A&E EDITOR

THE SPECTATOR, WHCL & SIGNATURE STYLE

hosted an Oktoberfest event with live performances by Moon Propoganda, The Blackberriez and Uptown Booty at Bagg's Square Brewery with one theme..."dress well." *The Spectator* had one question for attendees: "What are you wearing?"

ANNA SAKAMOTO '23 (SIGNATURE STYLE EIC) WEARS A VINTAGE UPCYCLED CORSET FROM BRICK LANE LONDON. PURSE IS UPCYCLED NEWSPAPER.



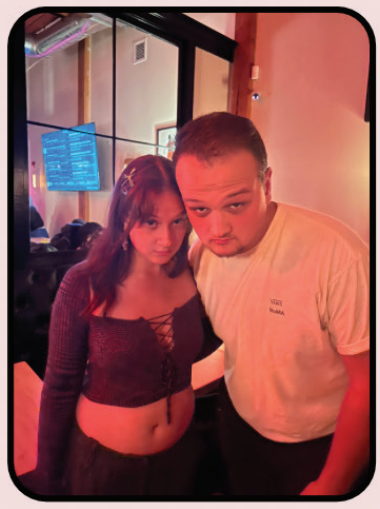
JULIET DAVIDSON '23 (WHCL GENERAL MANAGER) WEARS A THRIFTED SEQUIN DRESS FROM NYAK, NEW YORK.

JACK RITZENBERG '24 WEARS HIS FATHER'S GRATEFUL DEAD SHIRT, HIS GRANDFATHER'S BLAZER AND WRANGLER JEANS.

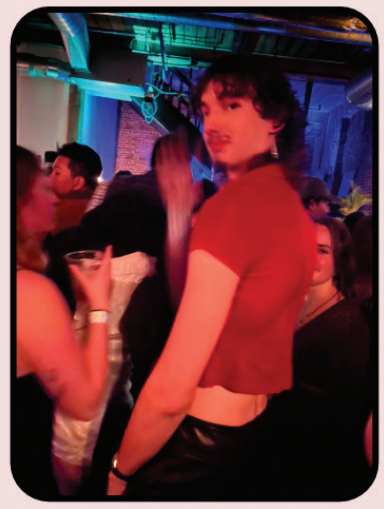
COLE KUCZEK '23 (THE SPECTATOR EIC) WEARS ELLIE WHALEN'S PANTS AND A SHIRT FROM ITALY. MARIAM SAIED '23 (SENIOR ADVISOR WHCL) WEARS A DRESS FROM JULIET DAVIDSON'S CLOSET.

ABIGAIL MOONE '23 WEARS A DRESS BOUGHT ABROAD IN FRANCE

JULLIA BARKAN '23, LIV HOLBROOK '23, ELISA MATSON '23 AND EMLYN HARRIS '23. OUTFITS FROM THRIFTISH, CLINTON NY.



HANNAH JABLONS '24 WEARS AN URBAN OUTFITTERS TOP, SCOUT WINER'S PANTS & PLATFORM DOCS. DUNCAN FREEMAN '22 (THE SPECTATOR INVESTIGATIVE) WEARS A VANS MOMA SHIRT, THRIFTED BROWN CORDUROYS AND REEBOKS.



SIMON STRINGER '23 WEARS URBAN OUTFITTERS PANTS, A SHIRT THAT WAS LEFT IN THEIR SUITE AND JULES JEWELS.

SURYA GOWDA '23 (SIGNATURE STYLE HEAD STYLIST, SPECTATOR MANAGING EDITOR) WEARS HER MOMS SHIRT, A BRANDY MELVILLE SKIRT AND DOCS.

HENRY KUCK '24 WEARS AN H&M DISCOUNT SHIRT, LULU LEMON PANTS, NIKE BLAZER ZIG-ZAGS AND A SACO WATCH.

SOPHIA VISCARELLO '25 WEARS AN ARITZIA TOP AND FASHION NOVA PANTS PAIRED WITH DOCS.

ERIC MOSS '24 (SPECTATOR EIC) GOES FOR THE UNTUCKED LOOK. BANANA REPUBLIC PANTS AND ALLBIRDS. BRACELETS FROM GLEN HOUSE.

October 27, 2022

Album review: Taylor Swift's *Midnights*

by Madelaine Tolliver '26
A&E CONTRIBUTER

From country to pop to folk, Taylor Swift has done it all. Since the release of her debut album in 2006, Swift has risen to the top of the charts countless times, racked up 42 Grammy award nominations and 11 wins and sold out global stadium tours. This past week, Swift hit a new milestone with the release of her fifth album in the past five years and her tenth total studio album, *Midnights*.

As described by Swift, *Midnights* tells the stories of 13 sleepless nights throughout Swift's life. The 13 songs on the standard edition of the album cover topics familiar to Swift: her love for her three pet cats, her ever-present battle with producer Scooter Braun and her devotion to her long-term boyfriend Joe Alwyn. Swift and Alwyn, disguised under the pen name William Bowrey, even collaborated to write a song on the album ("Sweet Nothing"). The album begins with "Lavender Haze," a pop-driven song that sets the tone for the entirety of the record. Swift collaborated with producer Jack Antonoff on the entirety of the album. Those who are familiar with Antonoff's work can recognize the familiarity between *Midnights* and his other works, such as Lorde's 2017 album, *Melodrama*, and of course the majority of Taylor Swift's recent albums, such as 1989, *Reputation* and *Lover*.

Though not as lyrically complex as recent albums *Folklore* and *Evermore*, *Midnights* holds much appeal to fans of Swift's work in pop music, which began with the original release of her recently re-released album *Red* in 2012. Stand-out tracks on *Midnights* include "Karma," "Anti-Hero," "You're on Your Own Kid" and "Mastermind." "Karma" features fun, carefree lyrics a la Swift's pop hit "Shake It Off." In the song's chorus, Swift sings, "Karma is a cat purring in my lap 'cause it loves me / Flexing like a god*mn acrobat." These whimsical lyrics, accompanied by a peppy snare-driven beat, create an incredibly danceable and catchy track. "Anti-Hero," of which Swift said, "I don't think I have delved this far into my insecurities in this detail before," does just that. Swift sings the tagline of the chorus, "It's me / Hi / I'm the problem, it's me," Swift also discusses elements of her dreams in this song, connecting back to the album's overarching concept of the stories of sleepless nights. In "You're On Your Own, Kid," Swift writes about struggles with growing up and learning to deal with the good and the bad on topics ranging from body issues to childhood friendships. Though it still holds the same pop feel as the rest of the album, "You're On Your Own, Kid" feels lyrically more stripped down, as if it could fit into her more lyrically complex albums like *Folklore* or *Evermore*. "Mastermind," serving as the last (and 13th, Swift's signature number) song on the album, explores her rise to fame and Swift's relationship with Joe Alwyn. Within the lyrics, Swift makes a callback to her 2010 album *Speak Now*, singing, "You see all the wisest women had to do it this way / 'Cause we were born to be the pawn in every lover's game" much like she sang in *Speak Now*'s crooning breakup song "Dear John": "And I lived in your chess game / But you changed the rules every day." Ties like these are one of the elements of Swift's writing fans love so much, as many feel one has to be a super-fan of Taylor Swift to fully unterstand her lyrics.

Though Swift is credited as writer and producer on all tracks on *Midnights*, along with Jack Antonoff, she also worked with many other collaborators. One of these collaborations was Lana Del Rey, another favorite of Antonoff, as they produced Del Rey's 2019 Grammy nominated album *Norman F*king Rockwell* together. Del Rey is credited as a featured artist on track four of the album "Snow On The Beach," though she falls victim to a treatment known by many featured artists on Swift's songs, being given only backing vocals and no solo lines or verses. Despite this, Del Rey's whimsical voice adds a layer to the track that otherwise would have been forgettable. Actress Zoë Kravitz, daughter of rock star Lenny Kravitz, is given songwriting credit on the album's leading track "Lavender Haze," giving the public the first taste of her collaboration with Antonoff, with whom she is working on an album with.

Though it may not appeal to fans of Taylor Swift's more folk-inspired works, *Midnights* is a great example of what pop music can and should be, proving once again what Taylor Swift is capable of.

PHOTO BY ROGER EBERT

Taylor Swift's rollout for *Midnights* included a one-time advertisement during an NFL game.

Vinyl's revival in the music industry

by Maximo Bratter '25
A&E EDITOR

It is difficult not to submit to the notion that modern society has an affinity for instant gratification. Social media applications like Instagram and TikTok encourage and capitalize upon lower attention spans that are liable to latch onto appealing graphics or abrasive content. This shift is most apparent in the way that consumers digest media. Box-office-caliber films such as *Blonde* (2022) and *The Gray Man* (2022) are both movies that originate on a streaming service (Netflix) rather than in theaters, the latter of which boasted an astounding budget of $200 million, a number that puts many studios who focus on in-person engagement to shame. In the realm of music, streaming has also enabled users to have unrestricted, and relatively limitless, access to their favorite artists. In a world where convenience reigns supreme, why have vinyl sales reached a new peak in popularity?

Ironically, the growth of physical records has coincided with new aspects of streaming being taken into account. According to *Variety*, TikTok music streaming revenue grew 24% from 2020 to 2021, accounting for 83% of total U.S. recorded music revenue, while vinyl revenue ballooned by 61% in 2021. Vinyl sales reached the mark of $1 billion for the first time since 1986, as well as being responsible for 63% of total revenue for physical music products. Physical methods of music indulgence have long been viewed as increasingly obsolete since the early 2000s, where devices like the iPod revolutionized the way customers could purchase music, as well as the aforementioned dawn of the streaming era in the 2010s. It is difficult to pinpoint how vinyl has once again carved out its niche in the zeitgeists of society, but there are various tangible and intangible perspectives from which to analyze it.

For lack of better words, there is just an overall vibe associated with physical records. The concept that these products were as culturally pervasive decades ago means that buying them is a way of practicing appreciation for past generations of music. Those who enjoy artists like Madonna and Bruce Springsteen, acts that enjoyed a career prime prior to the current technological age, might feel as though physical records can bring them to a time that they had no opportunity to enjoy. Those who feel disillusioned to modern standards of music may be inclined to return to previous generations for creative exploration. With tools like the internet at the disposal of impressionable consumers, nostalgia can be intoxicating, and the tangibility of vinyl can offer validation of one's extensive passion.

The exercise of listening to physical records also encourages a type of dedication that is absent from mediums like streaming. Purchasing vinyl promotes listeners to truly delve into the albums that they love by making them commit to buying the full-length album long play (LP) in its entirety, rather than being able to cherry pick specific songs that they enjoy while discarding the rest on an app like Spotify. Vinyl costs can range anywhere from $1 to multiple-LP box-sets that exceed $100. This in itself can be extremely provocative, as purchasing vinyl effectively places a quantitative value on the qualitative aspects of an artform. The consumer's listening experience is informed by whether they felt justified in their purchase, causing the subsequent evaluation of the musical act to be fueled by the affection or dismay felt for the standard of the product in relation to its personal monetary compromise. Fans are essentially carrying out a transaction with the artist instead of the middleman that streaming services often act as.

There are also certain aspects of physical records that can only be superficially replicated by their digital counterpart. The crackling of a record player's needle hitting the vinyl, the seamless transitions from song to song as an album progresses and the overall listening experience are all regarded as irreplaceable by even the most modern standards of auditory technology. The flaws that come with the physical product itself are the most distinctive feature of vinyl though. As records age, warp, scratch or even completely break, music can take on a distortedly fresh demeanor as opposed to the polished manner of its technologically advanced opposition.

Contrary to popular belief, some people have found personal sanctuary from the commodification of life in the gradual pleasure that products like physical records can provide. It can be so refreshing to have every resource at the tip of your fingers and still choose to patiently appreciate art. Even though vinyl is more of a genuinely intimate and capital investment than a subscription to Apple Music, those exact stakes are what makes the medium transcend its innate purpose.

PHOTO BY AMERICAN VINYL CO.

Vinyl sales are hitting their largest peak since the 1980s, even while streaming continues to dominate.

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Opinion: the NFL will continue to skate by

by Owen Lewis '24
SPORTS EDITOR

Football is as loved as virtually anything else in America. Per Wikipedia: "In a 2014 poll conducted by Harris Interactive, professional football ranked as the most popular sport, and college football ranked third behind only professional football and baseball; 46% of participants ranked some form of the game as their favorite sport." Look at *Friday Night Lights*; look at the fact that since 2017, it has cost at least five million dollars to purchase 30 seconds of commercial airtime during the Super Bowl. The National Football League is flourishing.

Now, the obligatory and obvious criticism of American football: It is dangerous, and the mild form of danger that features in most other sports. Helmet-to-helmet contact has dealt out a lot of serious head trauma. In 2011, former Atlanta Falcon Ray Easterling filed a lawsuit against the NFL for their treatment of concussions and other related injuries. Less than a year later, Easterling had taken his own life. An autopsy revealed that Easterling had been suffering from chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain disease often connected to repeated head trauma. In 2017, a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found CTE in 99% of the brains from a sample of deceased NFL players. Notably, the study lacked a control group, and families of players suspected to have suffered from CTE had additional motivation to donate brains for studies, but the correlation was far too significant to ignore.

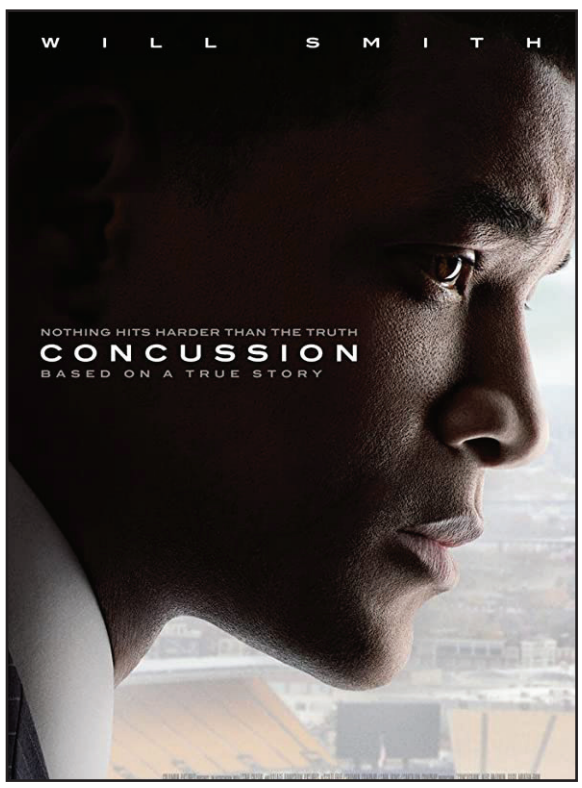


PHOTO BY AMAZON.COM

Will Smith starred as Dr. Bennet Omalu in the 2015 film *Concussion*.

PHOTO BY GETTY IMAGES

Tua Tagovailoa has suffered multiple head injuries this season, causing some to re-examine NFL concussion protocol.

The risks of playing in the NFL are well-documented at this point, and the research is out there. Late 2015 saw the premiere of the movie *Concussion*, which focused on the titular head injuries impacting NFL players and starred Will Smith as forensic pathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu. If anything was going to wound the seemingly impervious NFL, this was it. Yet, the impact was more of a drop in the ocean than anything. "But even when it's having a bad week, the NFL comes out on top," wrote Soraya Nadia McDonald in the *Washington Post*. (The title of the piece: "'Concussion,' the NFL, and the limits of empathy.") "'Concussion' grossed just $11 million in its first weekend," she continued, "a mere fly on the back of the $7.2 billion annual cash cow that is the NFL."

In 2015, Robert Mays interviewed *Concussion* director Peter Landesman for Grantland.com. "It's difficult for me," said Mays, a football fan and reporter, "someone for whom football means so much and knows how that Frontline documentary [an exposé on the NFL's awareness of the cause of long-term brain injuries to their players] made me feel. It's almost a visceral reaction."

"You'll still be able to love the game. I promise you. This movie does not take down the game. I still love it," Landesman replied, "and I still watch it." This is the problem, I think: that American football has wormed its way into so many hearts that we no longer have the capacity to make any significant structural changes. Making football safe means changing the very makeup of the sport, whose popularity speaks to the likelihood that most fans would not be willing to make the trade.

In week three of this NFL season, Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa was tackled backwards, rolling onto his back and hitting his head on the turf at the end of his roll. He shook his head repeatedly after getting up, before completely losing control of his limbs and falling to one knee. Despite the visible likelihood of a head injury, the NFL claimed that Tagovailoa had a back injury and had passed the necessary health checks to take the field in week four.

In the second quarter of that Week Four game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Tagovailoa got tackled again. This time he was wrapped up around the waist and dragged down backwards legs-first. His torso took a second to follow his lower half to the ground, but when it did, his head whiplashed into the ground with sickening force. Tagovailoa laid on the ground for a couple minutes. His hands seized up into jarring, unnatural positions, drawing YouTube comments like "Bro seeing his fingers go like that is one of the scariest things I've ever seen —prayers up to this young 24 year old man." He was carted off on a stretcher.

PHOTO BY WIKIPEDIA

The NFL is the most popular professional sport in the United States.

Continued from page 14

Tagovailoa missed the week five and six games, resting before beginning training and going through concussion protocol, and he was right back on the field for week seven, barely three weeks after the injury against the Bengals. Tagovailoa's return brought with it the first Dolphins win since his injury, as well as headlines highlighting his in-game struggles. From *The New York Times*: "In Returns of Tua Tagovailoa and Brian Flores, Dolphins' Troubles Are on Display." Google Tua Tagovailoa's name and most of the top articles are about his Game Seven performance, the concussion news buried under the avalanche. The headlines pinpoint the NFL's blind spots—the injuries are already old news, being set aside to talk about the Dolphins' win-loss record or Tagovailoa's performance.

Not that there has been no reaction to Tagovailoa's injuries, the NFL and NFL Players' Association have agreed on new concussion protocol, including the mandatory sidelining of a player if they exhibit ataxia (signs of imbalance or a loss of motor control following a head injury, like in Tagovailoa's case). The NFL has made steps in the past, as well. *The New Yorker*'s Louisa Thomas wrote the following on Oct. 12: "Even the N.F.L. has been forced to acknowledge the damage done by the sport to the people who played it, settling for a billion dollars with former players who brought concussion-related lawsuits. Spotters were hired to sit in stadiums during games and watch out for players exhibiting signs of concussions; there are now protocols in place to test whether a player has suffered one, and there is a five-phase process that a player needs to follow if he's diagnosed with one, before he can return to the field. This year, new guidelines required padded helmets during training camp for some players. The number of reported concussions has declined, and the subject has ceased to dominate conversation around the sport."

It is technical progress, but the response feels like an attempt to slap a piece of duct tape over a gash in a boat's hull. Though the new measures might prevent players from immediately reinjuring themselves after head trauma, they will not impact the root problem, which is that football is dangerous in its nature. Players' heads will still be whipped into the ground after some tackles, helmet-to-helmet contact will continue to feature in every single game, and the players will continue to suffer the consequences.

Tagovailoa himself wanted to play on in the week three game after his first injury. Sports fans tend to view attitudes like this as a "warrior's spirit," or the "heart of a champion," but such perseverance is actively harmful in cases like this. In the Wimbledon quarterfinals this year, Rafael Nadal played through an ab tear, and though he won the match, he worsened his injury significantly enough that he had to withdraw from the semifinal, then couldn't play for a couple months thereafter. Many of those who die climbing Mount Everest lose their lives because they ignored their turnaround time in favor of the summit's allure. The safe, sensible thing is to turn around, but climbers will sometimes ignore that, allowing their choices to be dictated by their athletic aspirations. Athletes need to be stopped in times of crisis, because much of the time, they are not capable of stopping themselves. The events of the last several weeks may well end up shaving years of Tagovailoa's life.

You would think, then, that the least the NFL could do is run a tight ship with respect to concussions. Football is an inherently dangerous game that has negatively impacted many current and former players' health. And the league certainly isn't going to close itself down, so why not err on the side of being too strict? *We respect your dedication to the game, Tua,* the NFL could say, *but you have to take the rest of the season off. The risk of yet another head injury is way too high, and we want you to be safe.* The NFL's current policies, highlighted by the doubtful characterization of Tagovailoa's first injury as a back problem, are anything but too strict. It seems that examples of the NFL's destructive impact on many of its players are annoyances to those who watch rather than deal-breakers. The biggest existential threat to the league is not losing its fans, most of them are not going anywhere. It is more likely the potential death of up-and-coming players that could result from enough schools or parents forbidding kids to play. Quite simply, as tragic as cases like Tagovailoa's are, they probably will not be enough to cause any major change in NFL safety policy, or the league's viewing audience.

Maybe I'm being overly cynical—and I hope that's the case—but I don't see much of an alternative. The NFL has been able to not just survive but flourish after the thinnest of reactions to head trauma in the past, and one more example of it is unlikely to change that. A few thousand fans might be prepared to ditch their football fandom, but like the settlement money the NFL has had to pay in the past, it's a drop in the bucket. American football is such a successful product (bordering on invincible at this point, really)—the fans know it, and worst of all, the league does too. This means that the event that will cause the NFL to seriously commit to protecting its players from head trauma hasn't happened yet and might not happen at all.

PHOTO BY MARCA.COM/ATNF

A frightening snapshot of Tagovailoa's hands following his head injury against the Bengals.

Hamilton fall sports play in eventful weekend

by Chris Harrison ’23
SPORTS EDITOR

Fall sports are coming to a close with many teams playing what could have been their final home games this past weekend. Below is a recap of Hamilton fall sports performances on an eventful October weekend.

Football

Football lost to Colby 18-12 after allowing only 3 points in the first half and leading 12-0 late in the second quarter. Leo Gerst ’26 scored his first touchdown on a six yard run midway through the second quarter. Colby went on a 18-0 run including 15 unanswered points in the second half. Matt Banbury ’23 threw for 220 yards, Gerst added 51 on the ground and 22 through the air. Mark Howrigan ’23 added 88 yards receiving on 10 catches, both career highs. The continentals fell to 2-4 on the season.

Men’s Soccer

Men’s Soccer lost 4-0 to Amherst on Saturday while dealing with injuries. The continentals fought hard but could not overcome the offensive onslaught from Amherst. On Tuesday men’s soccer finished their season with a 2-1 loss to out of conference SUNY Oneonta, Sam Meyerowitz ’24 scored Hamilton’s goal. The Continentals outshot Oneonta 11-5 but could only find the net once. Men’s soccer finished the season 23rd in the nation in D3soccer.com’s Top 25 poll.

PHOTO BY JOSH MCKEE

Sam Meyerowitz ’23 netted a goal for Hamilton in their match against Onenta.

Women's Soccer

Women’s soccer lost 1-0 to Amherst on Sunday in a competitive game. Hamilton put the pressure on Amherst after allowing a 34th minute goal, outshooting the Mammoths 14-10, but were unable to find the back of the net. Amherst was a tough opponent being ranked 11th and 13th in the nation by separate polls. The Continentals finished their season with a 10-0 demolition of outmatched Cazenovia, netting their highest scoring total since 2006. Caroline Dawson ’23, Hyla Mosher ’23, Olivia Zubarik ’25, Maddie Ledbury ’26, Rose McCullough ’23, Jess Yee ’26, Allie Reed ’23, Emma Gaulin ’23, Ally Goldin ’23, and Claire Kaplan ’23 all scored, accounting for 10 different goal scorers for the continentals

Women’s Volleyball

Women’s volleyball lost two matches to Drew University and Rowan University at the DeSales University Quad to fall to 8-9 on the season. The continentals fought hard but were unable to secure wins against two tough opponents. Hamilton returns to action against NESCAC rival Trinity College in a massive road match on Friday.

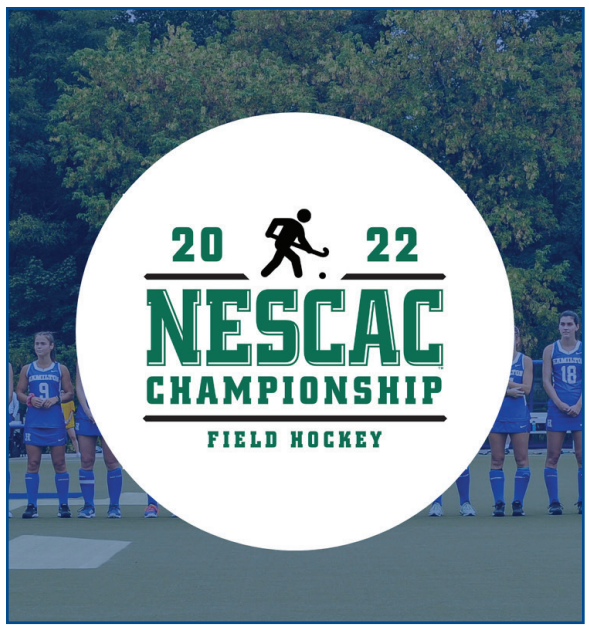
Field Hockey

Field hockey, currently ranked 14th in the nation, lost a close game to 5th ranked Amherst on Sunday 3-2. Delaney Grace ’25 and Claire Tratnyek ’26 scored for Hamilton who dropped to 8-6 on the year. While it was a tough loss, Hamilton may have another shot at Amherst in the NESCAC playoffs as they will enter the tournament as the 8th seed. They first have to beat a tough opponent in Middlebury in the tournament quarterfinals who are the 1st seed in the NESCAC and ranked 2nd in the country. With a win Hamilton would reach the tournament semifinals for the third time.

With many fall sports seasons coming to a close, and the rest not far behind, all of the Hamilton teams have fought hard to complete great seasons. There have been many noteworthy individual and team performances and and exciting games all fall. As the weather gets colder, Hamilton sports fans will shift their focus to the winter season which promises much more excitement to come for players and fans alike.

PHOTO BY JOSH MCKEE

Leo Gerst ’26 runs for his first collegiate touchdown in Hamilton's loss to Colby.



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Field Hockey will compete in the NESCAC championship tournament as the 8th seed.